

# The Framingham Circuit

Newsletter of the Framingham Amateur Radio Association October 1998, Vol. 65, No. 10

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## President's Message

The mornings are starting to get nippy, and another school year is underway. We had a great FARA picnic, with swimming (and a lifeguard!), radio, canoes and a kayak, to wind up the summer. As far as I could tell, a good time was had by all, and very little food left over (in spite of Lew's absence).

The packet cluster guys are up and running! There's still work to be done, but I have been over to Martin's Garage, and there's a pile of gear there. Try connecting to W1FY on 145.61. It's not up all the time, yet, but when it's up, the connections are reliable. Looks like the cables will be going in the trench soon, and the whole shebang is going into a nice equipment rack, courtesy of W1RH's extensive junkpile.

The shack computer has been upgraded. FARA thanks Anne, N1ECI, who won a Compaq Pentium in a raffle at work, and immediately donated it to the club. With some hard work by Paul, N1DGT and your obedient servant, it's now running Win95 and can connect to the Web. As soon as we can, we'll get the club database loaded, and we'll be able to print labels and update membership records at the shack.

I've just heard that I'll be a field tester for Elecraft's [www.elecraft.com](http://www.elecraft.com) new K2 kit. This is an all-band, QRP CW rig, with SSB, antenna tuner and internal battery options. I should be getting it at the end of October, and I'll let you all have a look. If you have never built a kit, you should sign up for my Wednesday night kitbuilding group. We have lots of fun, and everybody's kit is guaranteed to work. So, start thinking about what you'd like to build while the snow flies, and FARA will help you build it!

## Thursday, Oct 8 This Month's Meeting

Marjie, KA1HIA

It's that time again. Mario and Guido (I8PZA and I8MOR) will again give us their bi-annual update on DX doings from the isle of Pepperoni! Come and enjoy them. They've never failed to give a feast of an evening!

73,  
Peter, KA1AXY

## Packetcluster is on the Air!

by Charlie, NC1N

Labor Day was more than a holiday for FARA... it was also PacketCluster Day! The W1FY DX spotting node went on the air on 145.61 MHz. after 14 months of preparation.

The weather was rainy, and we had to keep suspending the antenna work due to thunderstorms, but everything came together in the end. Bob (W1RH), Martin (AA1ON), and I spent the afternoon putting together the pieces--2 antennas, 2 radios, 2 TNCs, 2 power supplies, computer and software--that had been collected and tested separately. We also tried a "first" for me: running co-ax in an abandoned chimney. ("Our clothes were all tarnished with ashes and soot...")

The node is officially in testing mode, but we're trying to keep it on-line as much as possible. The first two weeks saw their share of headaches as we learned just how complicated a system can be. Bob and the RF team worked on a number of issues associated with the 2-meter radio and antenna. The digital team and I worked on

## Submitting Material to the Circuit

Material may be submitted for publication by sending it directly to the editor. This can be done by phone, by US Mail, or via the Internet (preferred). The deadline for each issue is the **Wednesday**, one week before the monthly meeting.

### by phone

Home:  
(508) 435-2055 (before 9:00PM please!)

College:  
(508) 910-5296

### by mail

Robert Hess, N1UVA  
1 Cold Spring Brook Road  
Hopkinton, MA 01748

### by internet

[n1uva@ultranet.com](mailto:n1uva@ultranet.com)

## FARA October Monthly Meeting Postponed One Week

Due to Rosh Hashanah, the regular FARA monthly meeting for October will be postponed one week.

The October meeting will be held at the regular time, at the regular place on **Thursday, October 8**.

software and computer configuration problems that kept crashing the software. Several folks made trips to the site at various inconvenient hours to reset everything. But progress is being made and we've received a gratifying amount of positive feedback. The node is located in Hopkinton, near Hopkinton Center. It is currently using temporary antennas located about 510 feet above sea level. The permanent antennas will be located another 20 feet higher. However, coverage seems pretty good, even on KA1USL's loaner vertical. Special thanks for the first two weeks' effort go to AA1ON, W1RH, KA1USL, NB1B, N1XAS, W1EQW, and KC1YR. In addition, KA1AXY and N1DVJ are helping us on special projects in October. Congrats the entire PacketCluster team for a successful launch. Come check it out. See you on the Cluster!

#### FARA Picnic Picture

If you missed the FARA Picnic on September 6th here is a picture of the two chefs; Dick, K1KTK and Peter, KA1AXY. [The picture was taken by Paul, N1DGT. More pictures can be found on the FARA Web site under the "1998 FARA Picnic" section.](#)



#### QSL Card

Submitted by Sharon, KC1YR

Lee and I have taken some wonderful trips involving ham radio, but none were more incredible than my T9 expeditions to Sarajevo. The first one wasn't just a trip, but seemed closer to a miracle. Less than a month after the brutal siege of Sarajevo was finally lifted, a friend of mine in Arlington got permission for me to accompany a humanitarian aid mission to the city in March of 1996. Flying in on a NATO cargo plane, I actually got to meet some of my dear Bosnian friends who had experienced such horrors during the four-year war and siege.

I had worried about them every day, and dreamed about such a meeting since 1996, but hadn't really believed it would be possible to meet someday.

I was only on the radio briefly while I was there -- I only had three days, and wanted to spend time with my friends more than talk with strangers, even if there was a truly amazing pileup waiting for me. Alas, the aid group left the morning of Sarajevo's first hamfest since before the war, and I missed it.

The next year, Lee and I went together, in another kind of miracle -- we took a commercial flight into Sarajevo, and got to see some results of reconstruction efforts underway. We enjoyed two weeks in Bosnia, seeing part of federation territory and also visiting the Croatian jewel on the Adriatic Sea, the city of Dubrovnik. We spent a few evenings playing radio, and had a great time visiting with our friends and meeting more hams.

As some of you know, two of our dearest friends from Bosnia are now living



here in New England -- Danny, T93M/N1ZPE, currently designing antennas for Cushcraft; and Kamenko, T91EXA, an MIS manager in Cambridge, and their families. And, one family is about to expand, as Kamenko's wife is expecting their first baby this fall.

Samir, T99S, came to visit from Sarajevo this spring, and spoke with Danny about their wartime radio experiences and ham radio in Bosnia today. Samir looks forward to returning again sometime for another visit, and sends 73s to all his friends at W1FY.

*If you would like to share your favorite QSL card, which could be your own, with the club, please send it my way! A caption or story would be appreciated also.*

*Don't let not having a scanner keep you from sending in your favorite card. Many FARA Members have access to scanners, including Bob, W1RH.*

Sarajevo, Bosnia & Herzegovina							
<input type="checkbox"/> T9/KC1YR Sharon	<input type="checkbox"/> T9/KA1USL Lee	<input type="checkbox"/> T91EXA Kamenko					
<input type="checkbox"/> T99S Samir	<input type="checkbox"/> T93M Danny	<input type="checkbox"/> T97M Edin					
Confirming <input type="checkbox"/> our 2-way QSO <input type="checkbox"/> your SWL report							
	Date	UTC	Freq. band	PSK	Mode	QSL	
						PSE	TNK
<p>Many thanks to our Bosnian ham friends for all they did to make our visit to Sarajevo so wonderful - equipment loans, use of their shack and computers, hospitality that made us feel like honored guests, and most of all their friendship. To Edin T97M, Danny T93M (and XYL Elvira), Samir T99S, and Kamenko T91EXA (and XYL Vesna), puno hvala! (thanks very much.) - Sharon &amp; Lee</p> <p>KC1YR &amp; KA1USL: Gartenberg, 31 Joseph Road, Framingham, MA 01701 USA (Photo by KC1YR)</p>							

## FARA Web Site Relocates

by Peter, KA1AXY

Our Web site has moved to <http://www.qsl.net/fara>. We are maintaining a link on the old Ultranet site which points to the new site, but you should update your bookmarks. As the volume of material on the FARA web site grows, Ultranet is charging us more for storage. QSL.NET does not charge for storage, but requests a token yearly donation. We plan to continue the Ultranet account to provide our ISP service, but our web site will be located on QSL.NET.

## FARA Thanks...

...go to Paul and Anne Bacchiocci, for their donation of a Compaq Prolinea 575e computer for FARA's web and mailing label needs. This 75 Mhz Pentium will replace the 386 now in the club station, and is being set up to run Win95 and Front Page. It arrived with a 680 Mbyte hard drive and has 24 Mbytes of RAM. A CDROM has been procured and should be installed by the time you read this.

## From the Editor

by Robert, N1UVA

Since so many have asked about my college life, I just want everybody to know that I am having a great time at UMass Dartmouth. The residence halls are made up of suites which contain a common area and rooms for up to 12 people. A 27 inch TV was donated from the Hess household for my suite and it has somehow become the suite to be in. I am settling in just fine and despite the popularity of my suite I am still getting my work done, including the Circuit. However, I would appreciate it if all submissions are in by the 2nd Wednesday before the club meeting. I can still be reached at: [n1uva@ultranet.com](mailto:n1uva@ultranet.com)

If you need to contact me by phone my number is (508) 910-5296. What is the worst part so far, you may ask? Waiting for my Ethernet connection to access the T1!

## A Letter to the Editor

Circuit Editor,  
I had sent a copy of what I wrote about W1DI to Steve owner of Davis RF Co. He has in stock a ANC-4 Antenna Noise Cancellor that I am interested in. He is sending it to me on a trial basis. He ,through conversation, with me knows Julie well. The enclosed info that he sent should make good copy in our newsletter.

73's. Hal, WN1TKD

Hi Hal, that was really great and an excellent tribute to Julie. It also brought out another significant recollection. I was born and brought up in Framingham. I was licensed in 1963, at the age of 13. If it wasn't for FARA, and particularly Wes Randall, whose call sign I can't remember, my life would probably be totally different. FARA ran a ham radio class at the Civic Center. I started out with about 20 participants and in about a month it was down to just me. The code aspect sent all the rest packing. Wes worked with me until I passed the Novice. He recommended a Heathkit DX-20 and an SX-99. I built the Heathkit and when it didn't work he assessed it and found a bad RF choke.

I met one of my best friends, from Natick, on Novice CW. As fate would have it, fortunately he had the same crystal frequency that I did (I only had two crystals if I remember correctly and "working split" wasn't even in our language back then). I could go on and on about where all that led to. Bear in mind that when I got interested in ham radio, via a beautiful mahogany Zenith floor model radio in our living room, I did not know a single ham. I do remember my mother taking me to see a man on

Larned's Pond Road (near the Larneds beach, maybe this will help you recognize him), only a couple of blocks from where we lived. You probably would know him because he was big on six meters. I'm quite sure that Julie would know him, both being from Framingham. When we met, he gave me an "Eye-Ball QSO" certificate. If I really dug through some boxes I could find it, and my first log which would reveal Wes Randall's call sign. Again, this would be in the early '60's. I should probably write something for FARA too about my experience. One thing that I will never forget about my ham radio experiences, starting with Wes, and throughout my experience, one thing stood out: A ham was always ready to help another ham, or anybody else for that matter. The "fraternity" was fantastic. I only use the past tense because I was "totally immersed" in my earlier years and less immersed currently. Times change, needs change, often not to our liking; however, I still look forward to getting back into it "in full force" in my retirement.

I look forward to meeting you at some point soon. I think we have a lot to "rag chew" about! Lastly, I would like to thank you personally for your personal involvement in the War. Had you and the thousands of others had any doubts about that War and what had to be done, often without a prayer for survival, my existence now, and that of this phenomenal country of ours, would have been highly jeopardized. I can perceive some of what you and the others went through. I can not totally percieve the true impact. However, I have lived right next to Arlington Cemetery while in the Army and I visit the National Veterans Cemetery at Cape Cod. I have an immense respect for Veterans of any War. I hope that you can abate some of your recollections by way of the fact that your service was so very important, and critical, to myself and the World. Enough said! Cheers and Regards, Steve Davis, K1PEK

## Membership Dues

Annual membership dues are as follows: (Make checks payable to FARA)  
Regular FARA \$10  
Student / Retired \$5  
Repeater (voluntary) \$10

## FARA Horizons

Oct 8: Monthly Meeting  
Oct 26: Board Meeting

## Change of Address

If you would like to change the address on your Circuit label please direct all requests to Bev, N1LOO. She can be reached by the following:  
Email: [b-blees@juno.com](mailto:b-blees@juno.com)  
Phone: 626-2012